

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings and claims 17-19 based on the assertion that at least one ground contact is not shown. When the bridges 28 between contacts 26 are removed, certain contacts 26 are still connected to the carrier 18 by sections 20, 22 and 24. Applicants have amended paragraph [0028] of the specification to particularly point out that the ground contacts are those contacts 26 connected to the carrier 18 by sections 20, 22 and 24. In the illustrated embodiment, these contacts are the "at least one ground contacts" as claimed. Therefore, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the drawings and to claims 7-19. Such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants have also amended paragraph [0032] of the specification to add reference numbers to the jacket 13 and ground shield 15 recited in certain claims. Fig. 6B has been amended to include these reference numbers. Formal drawings incorporating the changes are enclosed herewith for approval.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 5, 6, 15, 23 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In an illustrated embodiment of the present invention, an electrical cable 12 includes a jacket 13. Cable 12 also has a plurality of signal wires 32 and a plurality of ground or drain wires 34. An electrical connector includes a housing body 14 having a plurality of contact openings 35 formed therein. A plurality of contacts 26 include certain contacts coupled to the signal wires 32 by connector portions 30 and certain other contacts 26 coupled to carrier 18 by sections 20, 22 and 24. The carrier strip 18 acts as a carrier during formation of the contacts. The drain wires 34 are formed to extend over an outer surface 52 of jacket 13 of cable 12. The carrier 18 is wrapped around an end of jacket 13 to secure the carrier strip to the cable 12. Carrier 18 also engages the drain wires 34 to provide electrical contact between the drain wires 34 and selected ground contacts 26 which are connected to carrier 18 by sections 20, 22 and/or 24.

Examiner has rejected independent claims 1, 10 and 17 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,267,874 to Koegel. Applicants respectively traverse the Examiner's rejections.

Koegel relates to an electrical connector with a wire guiding fixture. In Koegel, the connector assembly 6 includes a plurality of contacts 9 and a ground bus 10. A carrier strip 7 is connected to ground bus 10 by links 21. An electrical cable 1 includes a signal wire 2 and a ground wire 5. Signal wires 2 are connected to selected ones of contacts

9. Other contacts 9 remained joined to the ground bus 10. Ground bus 10 provides a continuous surface for direct connection of a ground wire 5 of at least one electrical cable 1.

Independent claim 1 specifically recites "a contact array including a carrier strip and a plurality of contacts coupled to the carrier strip". Claim 1 further recites that the carrier strip is "coupled to an end portion of the cable in contact with the ground of the cable to provide a ground connection between the cable ground and at least one of the plurality of contacts". In Koegel, the carrier strip 7 is not coupled to an end portion of the cable or in contact with the ground of the cable as recited in claim 1.

For at least these reasons, applicants submit that independent claim 1 patentably defines the invention over Koegel. Therefore, allowance of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-9 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 10 claims a method for coupling an electrical connector to a cable which includes the steps of "providing a contact array including a carrier strip and a plurality of contacts, the carrier strip being used to support the plurality of contacts during a forming process" and "coupling the carrier strip to an end portion of the cable". As discussed above, the carrier strip 7 in Koegel is not coupled to an end portion of the cable.

For at least these reasons, applicants submit that independent claim 10 patentably defines the invention over Koegel. Therefore, applicants submit that independent claim 10, as well as dependent claims 11-16, 30 and 31, are in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

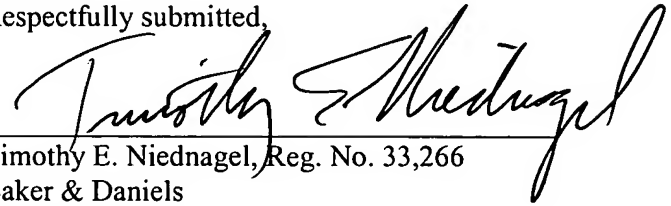
Independent claim 17 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that the conductive strip is coupled to an end portion of the jacket of the cable and is in contact with the ground cable. Koegel does not disclose or suggest a conductive strip which is coupled to an end portion of the jacket of the cable in contact with the cable ground.

For at least this reason, applicants submit that independent claim 17, as amended, as well as dependent claims 18-29, are in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

New independent claim 32 has been added. Applicants submit that new independent claim 32, as well as dependent claims 33-38, patentably define the invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any questions related to these amendments or to the application in general, the undersigned would appreciate the opportunity to address those questions directly in a telephone interview to expedite the prosecution of this application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Timothy E. Niednagel", written over a horizontal line.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings marked "Replacement Sheet" include amendments to Fig. 6B shown in red ink. Fig. 6B has been amended to add reference numbers 13 and 15 for the jacket and ground shield, respectively.

Formal drawings are enclosed herewith for approval by the Examiner.

Title: ELECTRONIC CONNECTOR FOR
CABLE

Inventors: Tondreault et al.

Appl. No.: Unknown

Atty. Docket No.: 13698-0003

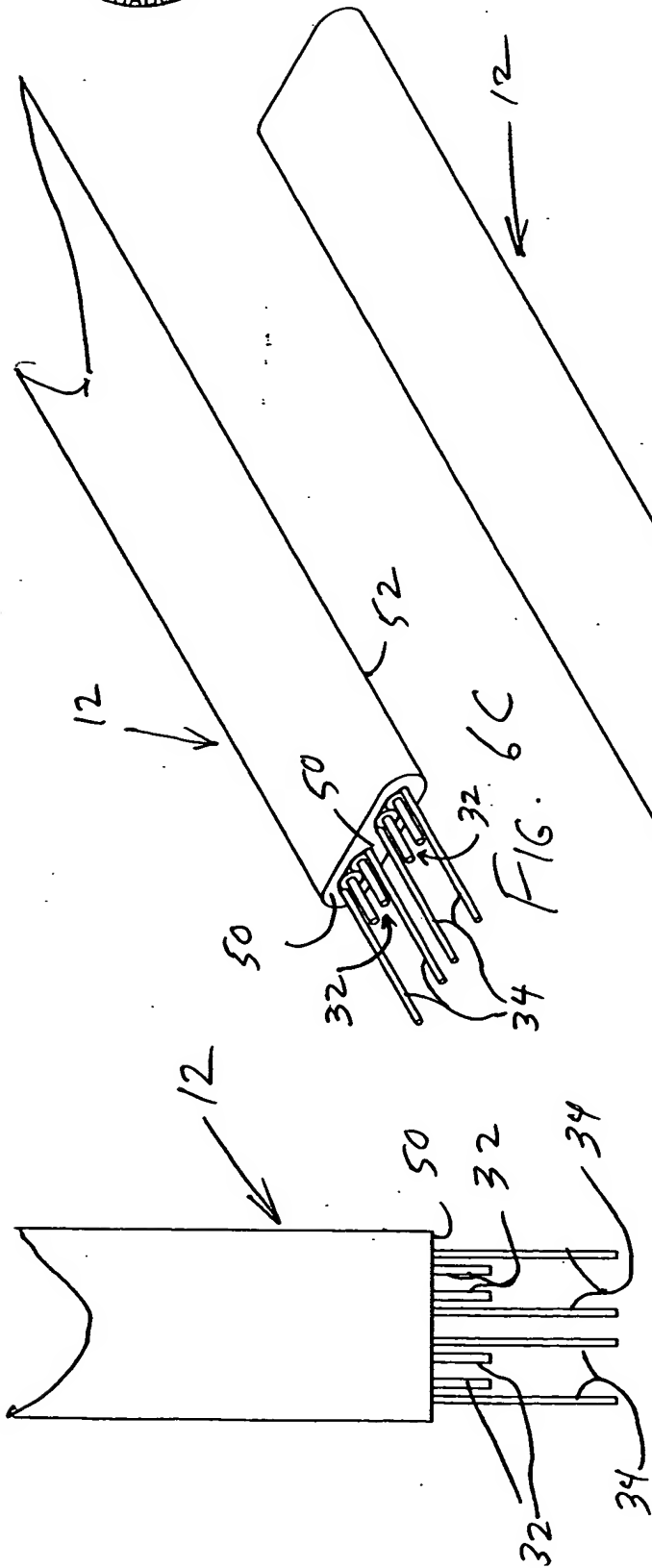


FIG. 6A

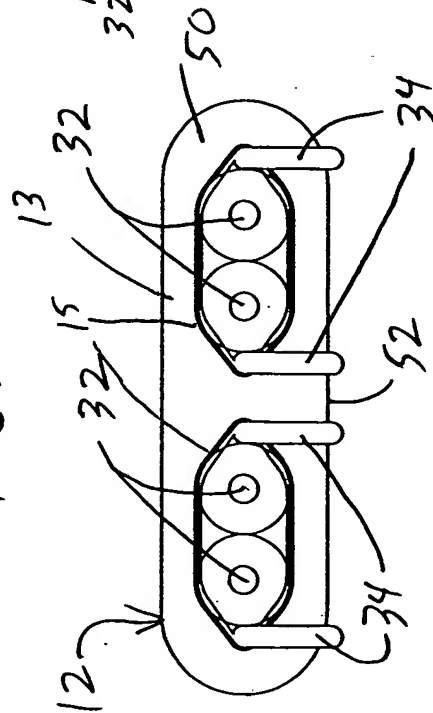


FIG. 6B



FIG. 6C

FIG. 6D

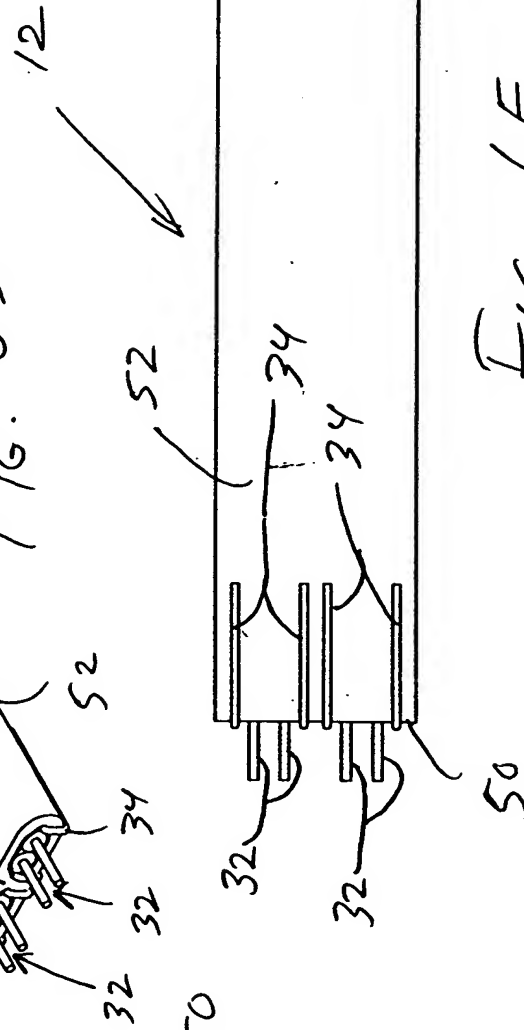


FIG. 6E

REPLACEMENT PAGE